



New Mexico **NEWS**

Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico/Oklahoma/Texas/Kansas

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For Release: May 26, 2000

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The Public is Invited to Celebrate the Designation of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a Millennium Legacy Trail

As part of National Trails Day, June 3, the State of New Mexico and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in partnership with the City of Socorro and the Socorro Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the designation of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in Socorro, New Mexico as one of America's first Legacy Trails. First blazed by Juan de Oñate in 1598, El Camino Real was the primary route for nearly 300 years by missionaries, conquistadors, soldiers, American Indians, and trade caravans between Mexico and New Mexico. The oldest, and one of the longest trails, linking Mexico and New Mexico the Camino Real symbolizes the connection of our culture, heritage and communities along this historic route.

Festivities will center around the Socorro Plaza and Garcia Opera House. A public ceremony and signing of the "Sisters Area" agreement between the Presidente Municipal San Francisco del Oro, Chihuahua, Mexico, and the Mayor for the City of Socorro will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. The "Sisters Area" relationship was established to promote natural resource protection, cultural preservation, and tourism in both countries. New Mexico and Chihuahuan communities will have an opportunity to showcase their culture and heritage through art exhibits, music and dance. Several exhibits showcase the art of women and children of communities in Mexico and New Mexico. A youth group from the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, will be creating a colorful mural on the plaza to commemorate the cultural exchange between Sister Areas. From 12:00 to 1:00 performing artists associated with the Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, Oñate Monument and Visitor Center will bring to life stories and events associated with El Camino Real. Flamenco artists, folk music and theater performances will reflect the different influences of Northern New Mexico and Spanish cultures. Local artists Emerald Blue, featuring Anthony Rosas, will perform on the plaza until 4:00 p.m.

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